

Candidate for School Board, Tonto Basin School District

Nancy Carolyn Gassaway, Republican

I have been a fulltime resident of the Tonto Basin area for over 25 years and a parttime resident for many years prior to that time. As a military family my children are products of several different public school systems and I've spent many years involved in the process. My family is now made up of many educators including two college professors and several others as teachers.

My business experience spans more than 40 years, with the bulk of that time spent as Area Manager for a large national company. I was responsible for negotiating fair, obtainable budgets for multi-million dollar stores and responsible for ensuring that budgets were met. Since fulltime retirement I have been very involved in our wonderful Tonto Basin community.

I can bring a fair and balanced input to citizens of Tonto Basin and address the issues that are important to all of us as it relates to our school. Educating our children must be a priority while being responsible with tax payer dollars. Recent actions that have adversely affected so many of our seniors who make up the largest percentage of our population is a wakeup call for our entire community to be more involved in what is happening in our wonderful school. We want our children to have access to the best possible education, but in so doing we must not forget that there are 1700 plus property owners in our school district who are supporting a school of around 57 students, and every action by the board affects every tax-paying owner in our district. Representation of ALL tax payers on the board is crucial and I feel I can contribute via my experience and provide the much needed diversity and connection with our senior population that we need. We must strive to keep outside interests who have no stake in the long term well being of our community, and are not even Gila county residents, from driving decisions that adversely affect all of us who are.

We live in a wonderfully unique and beautiful community with traditions and respect that make us appreciate why we're here. Let's work to keep it that way. I promise to work diligently toward that end.